

America's

FUTURE

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INFLATION AND GIVEAWAYS	1
BEHIND THE STEEL STRIKE	2
THE REAL ISSUE	4
A LOOK AT A LEADING REVIEW JOURNAL	5
THE PREDOMINANT POWER BOOK REVIEW	7

INFLATION AND GIVEAWAYS

It looks as if inflation, like the weather, is one of those things everybody talks about - but no one does anything about it. The President says he thinks inflation will be one of the big issues in next year's presidential campaign. And he is pictured as the man who is trying to hold the line against the wild spenders in Congress.

It is to the President's credit that he finally woke up to the fact - after six years in office - that government borrowing and spending

can make paupers of us all. The inflation produced by spending and borrowing can double and triple the cost of everything you buy. But if it is not stopped and reversed, it can eventually reach such fantastic proportions that a weekly wage of \$200 will not buy what \$20 once did.

However, the President - and most other politicians who talk about inflation - have their own pet inflationary schemes. And, with all their talk about inflation, they are unwilling to give up

their own special spending gimmicks.. In the President's case, he seems unable to recognize his own inconsistency, in demanding curbs on inflationary spending, and at the same time refusing to consider cuts in - to say nothing of abandoning - the foreign giveaways.

Aside from the inflationary effect of the foreign handout program, it is taking on aspects of the ridiculous so far as our foreign policy is concerned. We have given to Communist Poland 250 million dollars. Last week Khrushchev made a visit to Poland. Its communist dictator, Gomulka - with 250 million dollars of American money under his belt - greeted Khrushchev with

hugs and kisses. And Gomulka declared: "Our strength lies in unity and solidarity with the Soviet Union.." We have just sent Communist Yugoslavia another 15 million dollars, bringing our total handouts to this Red nation to a billion dollars. Nehru, the socialist leader of India, has gotten millions in American handouts. He did manage to get a bit upset about Red China's suppression of the Tibetan revolt. But he's back on the reservation now. His delegate is again demanding that Red China be admitted to the United Nations.

These are the dividends we collect - plus more inflation - from foreign handouts.

BEHIND THE STEEL STRIKE

For the sixth time since the end of the Second World War, we are in the midst of a steel strike. This has been called the strike nobody wanted. But companies which produce 90 percent of our steel have had to shut down. And 500,000 steel workers are out of jobs. Of course, this is only the beginning.. Steel is basic to many other industries. Workers and business men - big and little - who

are far removed from the steel plants, will feel the effects of the strike. The strike had been under way barely four days when an additional 35,000 people were out of work - and the number has been growing each day. These people, whether union members or not, and the business men from whom they buy food, clothing, and shelter - are thus at the mercy of the labor bosses in the steel union.

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Survey after survey showed that the steel workers did not want to strike. Many of them were not even very interested in a pay raise. Their rate of pay is already the highest in any major industry. And they were coming to realize that each raise in pay was quickly wiped out by the rising inflation. Many workers, too, were aware of the fact that, with six strikes in 14 years, they might never regain the wages lost during strikes, no matter how many pay raises they got. In the present strike, it is estimated that it will take a mill worker 36 weeks to make up his loss in wages for one week of being on strike. The longer the strike, the great-

er the loss to the workers.

Why, in the face of all this, did the steel workers permit their union bosses to call them out on strike? And why did the steel companies, with booming business, fail to reach an agreement which would keep their plants open?

So far as the steel workers are concerned, there may be two parts to the explanation. One is that too many unions nowadays are so constituted that the rank-and-file members are unable to make known their feelings to the union bosses. In other words, despite all the prattling by the labor bosses about democratic processes, they run the unions pretty much as they choose, without regard to the wishes of the members.

The other part of the explanation concerns the rank-and-file union members. They, too, are at fault, because they have not yet learned that their union bosses, unlike the oldtime labor leaders, have axes to grind which have nothing to do with the welfare of the workers. And whether the union bosses know it or not, some of these axes are such that they could actually chop to pieces the American free enterprise system - the system which has

brought the greatest degree of well-being not only to steel workers, but to all

other workers who had the advantage of jobs and pay which only a free system provides.

THE REAL ISSUE

This brings us to the steel companies. Many people are asking why they could not agree to a little pay raise and so prevent the strike. The union bosses are trying to say that this is the major point involved. But it is not. It is true that the companies would like to prevent, if possible, another wage-price-inflation spiral. But all the evidence seems to point to a willingness to meet the union bosses part way on the wage issue. No matter what the steel-union bosses tell their people, the major issue involved is *the right of the managers of the steel companies to run the steel mills* - or, to put it differently, *the right of management to manage*. And the steel companies were willing to risk a strike because the issue involves not only the steel mills, but all the rest of American industry.

Put as simply as possible, here is the question: Who is to decide how a steel plant - or a railroad, or rubber company, or television and radio station - who is to de-

cide how each shall be run? Should it be the managers of plant or station who, through long experience and know-how, will operate at a profit in the best interests of the stockholders, the workers and the public? Or should it be the union bosses, who may have great talents in running a union, but none at all in running a business?

This is the issue - the real issue - involved in the steel strike. In a way, the steel management is partly at fault, because they made so many concessions to the union bosses in the past. Now they find themselves so bound up in so-called "work rules" that the efficiency and productivity of American industry is going by the board.

The union bosses have been telling management how many men should do a certain job, how the job should or should not be done, and so on. The result is that American steel, as well as many other products, are losing their power to compete in the market because these union directives

reduce the productivity of each worker - while his wages spiral. The average union member may think his union boss is doing him a favor by putting two men on a job he could do very well by himself. But what becomes of his job, as well as the other man's, if all this brings about the ruin of American industry?

The steel workers, and their union bosses, had better note a little cloud which has already appeared in the sky. In the last five months, the United States, the greatest steel-producing country in the world, for the first time in 70 years imported more steel than she sold abroad.

- John T. Flynn

Foregoing items covered in Mutual Network broadcast 7/26/59

A LOOK AT A LEADING REVIEW JOURNAL

The New York *Times Sunday Book Review* enjoys a widespread influence (it circulates nationally) on the purchase and display of books by bookshop managers. A recent survey testifies to this influence. It was once richly deserved - when the *Times* was run strictly as a news medium and not as a self-appointed guardian of the "liberal" line. This so-called "liberalism" is now rampant in the *Sunday Book Review*, but the journal's influence continues. It is therefore in order to take a look at its record. It makes great pretensions to fairness. But what is its score in calling attention to books in the anti-communist, anti-socialist, pro-American field?

During 1958, AMERICA'S FUTURE recommended to its readers approximately 40 newly published books. When they dealt with great political, economic, social and foreign issues, they were in the category of anti-communist, anti-socialist, pro-American books. Or they were interesting, clean, significant fiction and non-fiction with no political bias one way or another. They were published by a variety of publishing houses.

Five of these volumes received generally favorable reviews in the *Times Sunday Book Review*. Three of the five had no political or ideological implications. The fourth dealt with the American Revolution. It was favorably

reviewed, with reservations. The fifth book deserves special mention. It was WEDEMEYER REPORTS! This book had had a great deal of advance publicity and so could hardly be ignored. But we can imagine the consternation among at least some of the *Times*' staff when the favorable review came in. This was, without doubt, the most sensational book of its kind published in 1958. The *Times Book Review* put the review on Page 6 (in inside columns). Page 1 was devoted to a book on the Civil War.

Three other volumes received what might be called half-and-half reviews - partly favorable and partly unfavorable. One was a novel about life under Russian Red rule. It was described as "yellow around the edges," to indicate it was old stuff.

Five volumes were reviewed unfavorably. Among them were J. Edgar Hoover's revealing study of foreign and native communists, *MASTERS OF DECEIT*, and E. Merrill Root's *BRAIN-WASHING IN THE HIGH SCHOOLS*, a startling analysis of the slanted history texts from which American children are taught. In the case of Judge Robert Morris' *NO WONDER WE ARE LOSING*, the *Times* first tried to ignore it. Under

pressure from a big advertiser, it finally ran a review - panning the book.

This makes a total of 13 books - five favorably reviewed, with the reservations noted, three given half-and-half reviews, and five unfavorably reviewed. There may have been another volume or two at most, which could not be checked because of incorrect references in the Index.

What about the other 25 or 26 pro-American books? They never have been published, so far as the *Times Sunday Book Review* was concerned. It simply ignored them completely - gave them what is known as the "silent" treatment.

Perhaps the *Times* has become a bit sensitive to the criticism which this silent practice generates. We note that one issue in May carried reviews of two fine recent books - Chodorov's *RISE AND FALL OF SOCIETY* (see AF 4/10) and Burnham's *CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN TRADITION* (see below). But of course both reviews were unfavorable. One was written by an erstwhile socialist. When this same reviewer panned another pro-American book last year, a correspondent wrote the publisher of the *N.Y. Times*. The publisher replied that it was

no concern of his whether the reviewer - a member of the *Times*' staff - was or is a

socialist. This no doubt explains a great deal about the *Times* and its Book Review.

Book Review THE PREDOMINANT POWER

CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN TRADITION by James Burnham, 363 pages, Regnery, Chicago, \$6.50.

Author Burnham here traces the decline in power of our legislative branch of government from its beginnings under the Constitution until today, where it is little more than a ceremonial rubber stamp.

Originally, Burnham tells us, Congress was thought of as the predominant power in the new government, but by constantly surrendering its power to the executive, its functions are reduced to those of "a mere junior partner."

The author buttresses his arguments by explaining that since 1933 every important treaty proposed by the executive has been confirmed. Each decisive economic and military power requested by a President has been granted. And the new wartime and peacetime agencies invented by the Presidents have been voted without protest.

Unless Congress checks the growing power of the executive, by now and then voting down a President's request, it can expect its influence to continue to wither away.

- Edwin McDowell

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